VALIANT
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VALIANT
VOICE
IT'S VALIANT COMICS MONTH!
SHADOWMAN CENTERFOLD!
#0
TOP SECRET INTERVIEW WITH MARK "NINJAK" MORETTI!

VALIANT VOICE™

VOLUME NUMBER ONE
ISSUE NUMBER NINE

EDITORIAL

If I had a dollar for every time I've heard the line, "When is VALIANT going to make a movie featuring its characters," I wouldn't need to write this editorial. I'm constantly bombarded with questions from VALIANT fans about when they'll see action figures, feature films, computer games and the like from us.

So, why haven't we produced any of these things yet?

Simple.

Almost everyone reading this column has seen the results of quick money, fly-by-night projects produced by other companies. And frankly – they are an embarrassment to the *entire* industry. When "company X" makes a bad film – we all suffer the mass market fallout. We *will* bring VALIANT characters to the screen, television, games and more – but *only* under *strict* marketing and editorial quality control. That's a *promise*. So we wait...and negotiate...and listen to the myriad of offers that come to us each week. (C.E.O. Steve Massarsky's twenty-five years of experience in managing properties in the entertainment field has taught him to bide his time until the right deal with the right people is available. I trust his judgment and so should you!) It *will* happen, but we're not in a hurry. To paraphrase Orson Welles, "We will license *no* character before its time, but that time is coming upon us quickly."

Bob Layton
Editor-In-Chief

NEW & IMPROVED VALIANT COMICS MONTH '93

In November of 1992, VALIANT celebrated the First Annual VALIANT Comics Month. Fresh from the stunning success of the Unity saga, we took an opportunity to spotlight for our many new readers the exciting developments in our fledgling comics universe. The greatest excitement was over our upcoming new series – ***BLOODSHOT***, and ***TUROK, DINOSAUR HUNTER***.

A year later, the changes at VALIANT are nothing short of phenomenal! The Second Annual VALIANT Comics Month finds the VALIANT Universe fantastically transformed and expanded, with exciting *new series and new directions upcoming!*

PRESENTING — *NINJAK!*

Up front in the VALIANT Comics Month spotlight is our most eagerly anticipated series ever – ***NINJAK!*** A hero unlike any other in the VALIANT Universe, Ninjak is the ultimate agent of espionage. With his arsenal of weaponry, martial arts mastery and wickedly keen intellect, this is a super-spy who makes James Bond look like an amateur. In this premier issue, readers will learn Ninjak's fate, now that the Weaponeer organization he served has been destroyed. In seeking to avenge the deaths of his comrades, Ninjak will be pitted against the man who will become his greatest enemy – Dr. Silk!

Like Harada and Darque before him, Silk is a complex and powerful villain who will quickly become a favorite with VALIANT fans. Speaking of fan-favorites, the creative team behind ***NINJAK*** is among the hottest in comics. Writer Mark Moretti thrilled ***ETERNAL WARRIOR*** readers with the classic "Book of Geomancer" and "Eternal Enemy" storylines. And, of course, the art team of superstar penciller Joe Quesada, inker Jimmy Palmiotti, and colorist John Ceballero is the same group behind the mega-popular ***X-O MANOWAR #0***. Quesada's incredibly dynamic and eye-catching style has made him the brightest star in comics, ensuring that ***NINJAK*** will be the most talked-about book of the year!

TIMEWALKER "WALKS THROUGH" *MAGNUS!*

For a peek at the next new VALIANT sensation, look no further than this month's issue of ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER***. That's because ***MAGNUS #33*** features a guest appearance by the time-travelling immortal, Ivar – star of the upcoming ***TIMEWALKER*** series! When last we saw Ivar (in ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG #11***), he was disappearing into a time arc along with F-7, a robot from the forty-first century. ***MAGNUS #33*** tells what happens when Ivar and F-7 emerge to find North Am subjugated by the evil Malev robots. Not only do the Malevs have an unfortunate influence upon F-7, but they threaten to use Ivar's knowledge of time travel as the ultimate weapon against humanity! The story, plotted and pencilled by ***MAGNUS*** artist Jim Calafiore, scripted by John Ostrander, and inked by Gonzalo Mayo, shows a more adventurous side of the Eternal Warrior's older brother. Remember Bloodshot's appearance in ***ETERNAL WARRIOR #5***, Doctor Mirage in ***SHADOWMAN #16***, and Ninjak in ***BLOODSHOT #6***? Well, ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER #33*** is the latest in the VALIANT tradition of thrilling stories featuring the future stars of their own series.

EXPLOSIVE ORIGINS OF *THE ARMORINES!*

November provides yet another preview of an upcoming VALIANT series as the Armorines clash with X-O in ***X-O MANOWAR #25***. This milestone issue introduces VALIANT'S newest team in a special sixteen-page insert book detailing the Armorines' origins. ***X-O #25*** presents a cataclysmic conflict between the armored military strike team and Aric, the super-armored modern-day barbarian! Beyond the fighting, this book also explores the complicated and intriguing motivations behind a team that definitely doesn't fit the typical "hero" mold. ***X-O #25*** is illustrated by Paris Karounos and Tom Ryder, while ***ARMORINES #0*** is rendered by Jim Calafiore and Gonzalo Mayo. Both stories are written by Jorge Gonzalez, who is rapidly becoming one of the most exciting and thought-provoking writers in comics.

THE NEW HARBINGERS!

While not technically a new series, ***HARBINGER #26*** takes VALIANT'S original team book in a radical new direction. Regular series writer Maurice Fleenor is joined by the sizzling new art team of penciller Sean Chen and inker Andrew Wendel. Their smooth, expressive style is

perfectly suited for presenting the further adventures of these powerful youths. Following the showdown between Pete Stanchek and Toyo Harada and the subsequent break-up of Pete's team, original cast member Faith "Zeppelin" Herbert actually becomes a student in the Harbinger Foundation! But, with Harada no longer in command, Zeppelin discovers that the Foundation can be just as good as it was bad. Surrounded by a new group of dynamic superpowered Harbingers, Zeppelin finds that, for her, the real adventure is just beginning. From Torque's death to the showdown with Harada, ***HARBINGER*** is famous for its unpredictable, unforgettable stories. ***HARBINGER #26*** begins the most appealing new direction in the evolution of a series that is quintessentially VALIANT.

WHAT IS "THE HORROR BELOW"?

Finally, what would VALIANT Comics Month be without a great multi-part adventure between two of our books? November kicks off just such a storyline in ***SECRET WEAPONS #5*** entitled "The Horror Below." The story continues in ***SECRET WEAPONS #7*** and culminates in ***X-O MANOWAR #27***. This storyline involves the ***SECRET WEAPONS*** cast of Geoff the Geomancer, Ultrawire and Stronghold, as well as the Eternal Warrior and X-O! The consequences of this tale will change X-O's life beyond your wildest imaginings! In the VALIANT Universe, where every adventure has lasting consequences, this promises to stand out as one of the most memorable tales of all.

November 1993, the Second Annual VALIANT Comics Month – brimming over with the newest thrills and chills we have to offer. And yet, in a sense, VALIANT Comics Month only brings you more of the same quality that you've come to expect from us. Because what you routinely expect from VALIANT is the freshest, most readable, and best made comics available anywhere. Count on it!

VALIANT.

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Interview with MARK MORETTI *of* NINJAK

the only man who can tell Ninjak what to do

"Can we start? I have something scheduled for 3:00, so let's get cracking." This is going to be fun. Mark Moretti, former writer and penciller of ***ETERNAL WARRIOR***, as well as editor of ***X-O MANOWAR***, ***HARBINGER***, ***BLOODSHOT***, and ***SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM***, is also writer of VALIANT's newest book, ***NINJAK***. Mark is well-known for his verbosity, so I am unsure whether I'll give thanks for not having to pull information out of him or scream because he won't shut up.

Sequestered in Mark's office, amid the phone calls and interruptions from the editorial department, we discussed ***NINJAK***, its premise, Joe Quesada and his plans to pencil again.

The much-heralded art of Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti has raised reader anticipation of ***NINJAK*** to a crescendo. In light of this, ***NINJAK*** would seem to be one of the most important projects of Mark's career. "Definitely," says Mark. "The launching of a new title is in itself important, but, moreover, this is the opportunity for me to mold a character that has no history yet. I have the chance to use a reservoir of ideas that could not be used with our existing characters." But, the Quesada factor cannot be overlooked. "Joe brings a following that is rarely given to a new title. His presence brings the book more and more into the spotlight." True, but this factor may not be in a writer's best interest. There is a tendency in the industry to overlook the writing and concentrate on the pictures alone. "I don't buy into that...not with our audience," Mark argues. "We have a reputation for storytelling that we are held accountable for. Our readership demands a quality story. It would be a slight to them [the fans] if we just rested on Joe's reputation. We...I would never do that."

Skimming over the ***NINJAK*** pages on his desk, Mark offhandedly remarks that this is far superior to what was in his mind's eye. "That's the thing I enjoy about writing this story. Quesada and I talk every week about it; what's happening, what works and what doesn't. We bounce ideas off each other left and right. Joe has millions of things running in his head that he's always wanted to do...and the remarkable thing is that they are the same things I've wanted to write!"

To Mark this is not a typical shoot-'em-up book. "Ninjak's not your ordinary hero on several levels. He has no superpowers at all. Not even a device to generate some sort of super ability. He relies solely on his intellect. His reason for working as an Enforcer (for the Weaponeer) is not boredom at all... he's haunted by things in his past. Things that don't allow him to sit at home and make more money." He continues, "As we will reveal in the series, Ninjak is not in the mercenary business because he's evil; to him this is a job, plain and simple. Although it may not be in the end."

"I see him as a cross between James Bond and Bruce Lee. He's British by birth, but because his father was in the Navy he was raised all over the world, most notably in the Far East. There he studied the four attitudes of ninja," adds Mark. "His kinship with the spirituality of the ninja is what has guided him through the difficult times in his life -- his father's death, his mother's ambivalence. But he is also a Brit, and a blue blood – a legacy that has been denied him. However, I won't divulge that story line yet."

A story of an angst-ridden hero doesn't seem too appealing. What's to attract a comic book audience who loves their heroes to have superpowers? "Well," says Mark, "he's more realistic, for one. This is a man who has to rely on his ability to outsmart his opponent. Pure brawn can be stopped with one bul-

Mark Moretti Interview continued on page

VOICE MAIL

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VALIANT VOICE™
c/o VOYAGER COMMUNICATIONS
275 Seventh Ave.
New York, NY 10001

CONTINUITY CONUNDRUMS

As most of you already know, one of the most attractive characteristics of the VALIANT Universe is our tight and consistent continuity. This sense that everything counts and every action has its consequences helps to make ours the most believable universe in comics. But, as clear as we try to make our stories, there are always readers who want to know more about their favorite VALIANT characters.

HACKED-OFF ABOUT HARBINGER

Dear VALIANT,

I'm not particular who ("HARBINGER Letters" or "Voice Mail") answers my letter as long as it is answered.

To begin, let me say that I love all VALIANT comics. When ***HARBINGER*** hit the stands it quickly rose to the top of my "read-first" list. I have really enjoyed it!

Now, however, I have several concerns:

First, the original ***HARBINGER*** team is disbanded to make room for a more juvenile-looking team. I'm sorry, but even before reading issue #26, I already don't like it! I want Sting, Kris and Flamingo back. Second, I hear that Howard Simpson and Gonzalo Mayo are leaving Harbinger. Again, I do not like it! They are VALIANT'S best art team to date. I want them back, too!

Unless these concerns are satisfactorily addressed, ***HARBINGER*** may be the first VALIANT title I quit reading.

Thank you,
Shannon Whorton
Rockdale, TX

Hold on, Shannon—you're condemning the work without even seeing it! At least consider the reasoning behind the changes in HARBINGER. Sting and the gang couldn't go on running from Harada forever. To string out the HARBINGER status quo would be to cheat the readers of the final confrontation which had to come! Without this catastrophic payoff to the storyline, HARBINGER would degenerate to pointless battles between Sting's group and the Harbinger Foundation in which neither side ever got the upper hand. Furthermore, VALIANT is dedicated to bringing you characters who undergo real and meaningful development in their lives. Sometimes this means upsetting an arrangement that you're comfortable with. But if you don't keep moving forward, you stagnate.

But, the bottom line on Harbinger is that the upcoming art team of Sean Chen and Andrew Wendell is so hot that HARBINGER writer Maurice Fontenot's passion for the series seems to have doubled! Just give it a chance, Shannon—you won't be disappointed.

ETERNAL QUESTIONS

Dear VALIANT,

I have some questions about your characters and I hope you can answer them for me...

1) Of the three brothers (Ivar, Armstrong, and Gilad), who is the oldest? I'm asking you this because I've read in some magazines that Ivar is the oldest, but others say Gilad is the oldest. 2) How old are the three brothers really? Because I've read that Gilad is 10,000 years old which would mean he would have been born in 8008 B.C., but he wasn't born until 3268 B.C. 3) When Gilad, Ivar, and Armstrong's people were all killed in Mesopotamia, where was Ivar? 4) How old is Turok? 5) How old was Geoff when his Uncle Buck passed on the knowledge of the Geomancers to him? 6) How old was Geoff's Uncle Buck when he died? 7) Do Geomancers get prolonged lives when they acquire the knowledge of the Geomancers? 8) After what happened in ***SECRET WEAPONS #2***, will Doctor Eclipse be coming back? 9) In the year 4002 A.D., will the Eternal Warrior face the Immortal Enemy? 10) After the events in Rai #0, what happened to Armstrong? 11) Is there any way the Eternal Warrior or his brothers can be killed? 12) Is the X-O Manowar class armor in Magnus #30 the same armor worn by Aric?

Once again, I hope you can answer my questions for me. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,
Holger Mueller
Middletown, New York

All right, Holger, here we go—

1) Ivar, born in 3270 B.C., is the oldest of the three immortal brothers. 2) Gilad was born in 3268 B.C., making him around 5261 years old. 3) Where Ivar was when his people were killed, as well as other facts of his youth, are secrets yet to be revealed. Eventually, a "zero" issue of TIMEWALKER will more fully explore Ivar's early days. 4) Chronologically, Turok is in his early thirties. But, since he was born around 1830, he might seem a bit old-fashioned! 5) Geoff was around eight years old when Buck McHenry began to teach him the ways of Geomancy. He spent one year learning before he returned home to his parents. Geoff is now around seventeen years old. 6) Buck McHenry was over 118 years old when he passed away. 7) Geomancers are in such harmony with the forces of nature and lead such clean lives that they seem to age more slowly than most people. This is why Buck was so spry up until his untimely death, and why Geoff looks so young for a seventeen-year-old. 8) Stay tuned to ***THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE!!*** *9) If the Immortal Enemy is still around in Magnus' time, he's probably too busy hiding from the Maleva to give Gilad any trouble! 10) Keep reading our "future" books. It'll be awhile, but we'll reveal Armstrong's fate. 11) If enough of their bodies were destroyed (say, blown apart, burned, vaporized, or chopped up), yes—you could kill the immortal brothers. 12) No. The armor in Magnus is the one worn by the Spider Alien warrior who Solar defeated on one of Saturn's moons.*

ROCK-N-ROLL HOOCHIE-KOO

Dear Mr. Layton,

I saw the ads for the August issue of ***SHADOWMAN*** and all I can say is "WOW!" And Aerosmith no less, such genius in a company so young. Why, it was just the other day that I was talking to my good friend, T.J. Krupaggle, about how much we both missed the old KISS comic book, and now you good people spring this on me. Kudos.

But now I must beg you, do not stop there! Below are just a couple of my ideas for future stories:

X-O MANOWAR: While in Boston, Aric runs into the New Kids On the Block, where he challenges Donnie, who is in my opinion the cutest Kid On the Block, to a dance-off. Well, things get a little ugly during the competition, but all is forgotten when they both team up against the New Kids' agent, who turns out to be...that's right, one of Master Darque's minions.

HARBINGER: While running from Harada, Zeppelin and the rest of the crew run into a western bar in Texas, where they meet up with Billy Ray Cyrus, in an issue that could only be called "Achy Breaky Harbinger." Hell, the issue practically writes itself.

Well, that's all the ideas I can provide you beautiful folks without having the benefit of compensation on my side. So keep it up, long live rock and roll, comic books, and lest we forget, VALIANT.

Viva Las Vegas,
S. Penelope Jones
Escondido, CA

In fact, Penelope, we have an upcoming appearance in SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM by David Boscic. It turns out David is really a Spider Alien—a fact he freely revealed in his album "Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars." Also, there's a future issue of ARCHER & ARMSTRONG in which Archer goes after Sinead O'Connor for tearing up a picture of the Dalai Lama on Saturday Night Live. They wind up killing it off and exchanging hair-care secrets. (Just kidding, kids!!!)

NEWS FLASH

Shadowman lights up January!

VALIANT launches 1994 with a bang! January marks VALIANT's first tribute to that creature of the night, Shadowman. This jam-packed month features ***SHADOWMAN*** #0, the ***SHADOWMAN*** Trade Paperback, and an appearance by Shadowman in ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG*** as well as in his own title. Making this month all the more noteworthy is the debut of ***X-O MANOWAR***'s Tom Ryder as the new inker on the ***SHADOWMAN*** series. With a slew of phenomenal ***SHADOWMAN*** covers under his belt and a successful run on ***X-O MANOWAR***, Tom is sure to add excitement to the pages of this title.

The events leading to Jack Boniface's transformation into Shadowman are the focus of ***SHADOWMAN*** #0. Readers should pay strict attention to this issue: what was once believed about Jack's past may no longer hold true! The ***SHADOWMAN*** Trade Paperback reprints issues #1-3 & 0, with an added story about Jack as an incentive (it is *X-O* and ***Rai*** TPB!). ***SHADOWMAN*** month is just the beginning of an exciting VALIANT year ahead.

The Destroyer Returns

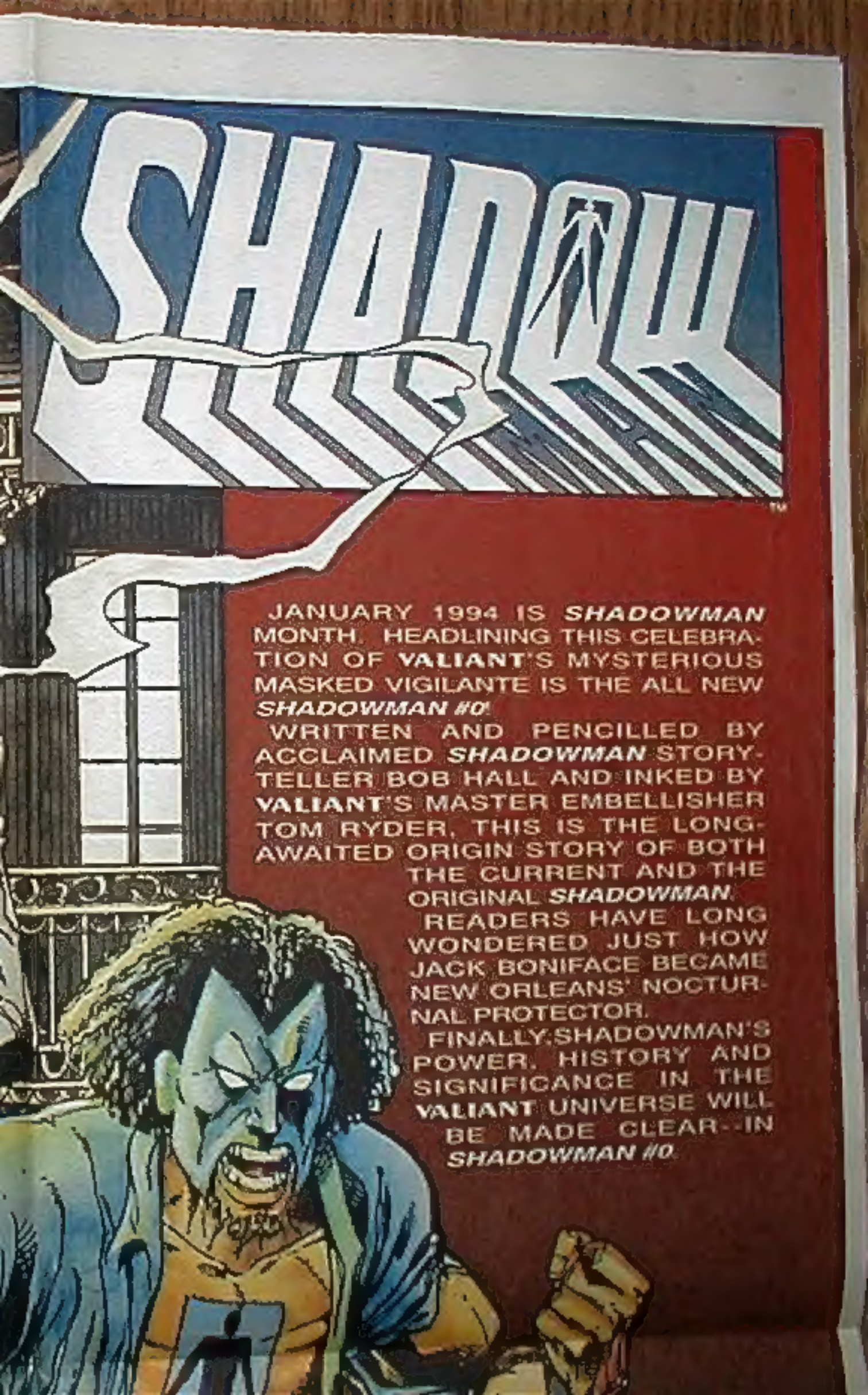
Not only were the rumors that the Solar the Destroyer story line would be scrapped untrue, but the mini-series is set to commence in February. Contrary to the original plan to offer the mini-series as an additional book, it will be part of the regular ***SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM*** series. Starting in ***SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM*** #33 and concluding in #35, the story sets Solar the Destroyer against the Spider Aliens...but on their home turf. Look for more details on this special series in future issues of the VALIANT Voice!

VALIANT Traveling Art Tour

This month the Art Tour stops at the following stores. Check it out!

October 22 - November 3
Sarge's Comics
52 Elm Street
New London, CT 06320
(203) 443-8377

November 5 - November 20
Jim Hanley's Universe
West 33rd St.
New York, NY
(212) 268-3839


SHADOW
™
JANUARY 1994 IS *SHADOWMAN* MONTH. HEADLINING THIS CELEBRATION OF **VALIANT**'S MYSTERIOUS MASKED VIGILANTE IS THE ALL NEW *SHADOWMAN #0*!
WRITTEN AND PENCILLED BY ACCLAIMED *SHADOWMAN* STORYTELLER BOB HALL AND INKED BY **VALIANT**'S MASTER EMBELLISHER TOM RYDER, THIS IS THE LONG-AWAITED ORIGIN STORY OF BOTH THE CURRENT AND THE ORIGINAL *SHADOWMAN*.
READERS HAVE LONG WONDERED JUST HOW JACK BONIFACE BECAME NEW ORLEANS' NOCTURNAL PROTECTOR.
FINALLY, SHADOWMAN'S POWER, HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE IN THE **VALIANT** UNIVERSE WILL BE MADE CLEAR--IN *SHADOWMAN #0*.

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VA

Bulkhead
RYDER
ALIANT

A View from Within

Breaking into the comic book industry is probably not as tough as actually staying in it. This goes for new companies as well as new artists. It takes a great deal of effort for us to maintain our high standards of quality and timeliness. As they say though, "it's a labor of love." If you are an aspiring artist, you must be willing to do whatever it takes to reach your goals. If you're willing to put forth the effort, the next logical step is to show your work.

Showing your work in person is naturally the best way to go. Feedback is always immediate, even if it's not always favorable. Take advantage of local conventions or schedule appointments with editors, if you can. Remember though, editors are usually very busy, so make sure your work is current and your absolute best. If you don't happen to live near major convention sites, you may have to resort to mail-in submissions. Our Art Submissions Director here is Editor/*BLOODSHOT* penciller, Don Perlin. I've asked Don what he looks for in a good submission. He stressed, first of all, a *self-addressed stamped envelope* large enough to return your 11x17 photocopies. The main things that he looks for are draftsmanship and storytelling. Pin-ups are not as good a representation of your abilities as are actual sequential drawings. Include about four (4) pages (*no original art -- photocopies only, and please don't send any creator-owned characters*), and be sure to show backgrounds, normal people in normal clothes (not just superheroes), houses, cars, etc. *Be sure to include a VALIANT character or two.* If Don decides that you have some possibilities, your work gets passed on to Bob Layton, Editor-In-Chief, where a final decision is made. Understand that it may take some time for a response. But if your work is good you will hear from someone eventually.

There are plenty of avenues into this industry other than penciling and inking. In many companies there are opportunities for writers, letterers, colorists, and production artists. Computers are also being used more these days, so it greatly helps your chances if you're computer-literate. There are many classes available on comic book art, as well as writing and computer graphics. Education is always helpful.

This month's "Did You Know" is dedicated to VALIANT artist, Jim Calafiore. *Did you know Jim got his start here through his mail-in submissions? He sent his work in, and after several follow-up calls (which he insists are important), he got an appointment. Jim now pencils **MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER** and has just completed our newest team book, **ARMORINES** #0.*

ADS Darren Sanchez
Production Manager

INQUIRING VOICES

Why do some Harbinger powers seem to repeat in other Harbingers?

The psionic powers of Harbingers are a reflection of their personalities. Thus, the painfully shy Harbinger named Camouflage has an invisibility power. With several basic personality types, it stands to reason that different Harbingers occasionally manifest similar powers. For example, Zeppelin's power of flight is a natural extension of her obsession with fantasy. Since the wish to fly is common, we have also seen the flying Eggbreakers—Sparrow and Swallow. But, this doesn't mean that similarly powered Harbingers have the same dispositions. Zeppelin's super-tough new teammate, Anvil, has powers like the Eggbreaker Rock, but shares none of his evil nature. Ultimately, Harbingers are defined not by their powers, but by their values and judgements.

VALIANT PROMO ART

In the spirit of VALIANT comics month, we're giving our fans a sneak peak at what's on the horizon. We snagged some of the latest artwork from the likes of Bob Hall, Tom Ryder, Yvel Guichet and Mike Vosberg to whet your appetite for what's sure to be hot off the racks in the next months!!

SHADOWMAN #0

This is the origin issue of the life of ***SHADOWMAN***. Sure to be a slam-bang, chock-full-of-surprises issue, it traces those never-before-known aspects of Shadowman (watch out...everything you thought you knew was wrong!). This issue also marks the debut of ***X-O MANOWAR***'s Tom Ryder, as the new inker of the series. January '04.

ARCHER & ARMSTRONG #23

In celebration of ***SHADOWMAN*** month, ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG*** are treated to a guest appearance by the man-of-the-night himself. The story unites Shadowman, Archer and Armstrong on a heart-pounding chase for Master Darque, who is responsible for the murder of the person closest to Archer. Who is this person? And how will Archer avenge his death? These questions will be revealed in this two-part story that commences in January.

H.A.R.D. CORPS #17

Things are only getting worse for the weary, undermanned team. Beleaguered and frustrated, they are faced with their toughest opponents yet...the ***ARMORINES***! Can the team muster enough power to pull themselves together and battle these new combatants? Watch for the excitement in January.

Mark Morelli Interview continued from page 3

let. Ninjak has the capacity to outthink the person before it gets to that point. In the long run, isn't that more appealing? Readers can identify with the ability to use their minds to win a fight, as opposed to the use of a suit of armor to fight their battles."

But where is the archenemy, the nemesis, the villain? According to Mark, that's another difference that Ninjak possesses. "The nemesis in this case is a man named Dr. Silk and he is unique. A cross between Ross Perot and Steven Hawking is how I like to describe him," chuckles Mark. "Maybe it's better to say he's a brilliant maniac, and leave it at that." Another reference to intellect. So who's smarter, Ninjak or Dr. Silk? The hero always outsmarts the villain, right? "Nope. There's a real struggle between them, with each switching roles as winner and loser. There is a genuine polarity between them. A true negative and a positive cancel each other out. But, of course, there will be instances when there will be more positive than negative, and vice-versa. What's more," Mark continues, "there is an admiration that grows out of meeting someone of your own intellect, someone that is a genuine adversary. These two individuals have never met anyone that can truly outwit them...until now."

In talking with Mark, there is a sense of enthusiasm that emanates from his voice. It's difficult not to wonder if that's what was missing when he made the decision to stop penciling. "Maybe that's part of it," he says "some of the desire may have been gone. But that may have been only part of it. The other part, which I can attest to, was that I was tired. I was working night and day to catch up. Becoming an editor was the best and worst thing that could have ever happened. I love editing our books, but it was too much for me. I never fully grabbed hold of what was happening. Never fully took into account what a tremendous work load I was carrying, until the day that I told Bob [Layton] that I needed a break." He continues, "I was in the office almost every day to edit, and then going home to work all night to get penciled pages done. I could not stay on schedule."

"I believe I have a better sense of what this business entails now. I have been given the opportunity, and I must stress how much I owe the company for this chance to get it together. Who knows if another company would have allowed me to take a break, to figure out what I wanted, and then let me go back to penciling. And I do want to start penciling a book again. Maybe I never really lost the desire, I just needed to put it on the back burner for a while. Maybe the enthusiasm for *NINJAK* transcended into enthusiasm for my penciling! That may be the best thing that comes out of the entire experience." ✦

TIMELINE OF THE VALIANT UNIVERSE

During a holiday on Mars with I-A, the 16 year old Magnus gets his first taste of battling Power Men, when he saves the governor's daughter from a kidnap attempt.

MARCH 3992

Toka Nakoid relocates to Arcadia to become the Steel Kid. He places his son, Takeshi, in the care of the computer known as "Grandmother".

MARCH 4001

MARCH 4001

In response to Tekla becoming leader of the surviving Freewills, the council reverses Kyoko's psychic probe. Once again this old enemy and Magnus fight for the survival of North Am.

MAY 4001

After years of searching, Bekkie Tate, now a full-fledged Deathwave, manages to locate Gilad, the Eternal Warrior. Together they set out to stop Unity.

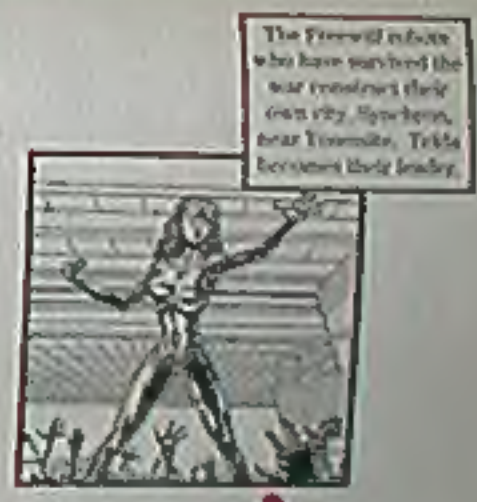
AUG 4001

During his first appearance in North Am, Magnus destroys H.A, the Chief of Police, and frees 1000 people whose minds have been enslaved to power the central computer.

AUG 4000

In fact, in our future for hundreds of years, mutants just in time to help mankind stave off another attack by the Spiders Aliens.

MARCH 4001


The Freewill mutants who have survived the war construct their own city, Spyderton, near Townsite. Tekla becomes their leader.

MAY 4001

With the help of Widow Valkyrie, Magnus discovers the doorway from his time into the Lost Land. There he meets Turok and together they battle the evil Dr. Neel.

JUNE 4001

CONTINUED MONTHLY IN THE VALIANT VOICE

~COMING THIS MONTH~

OCTOBER SPOTLIGHT ON:

NINJAK #1

By Morrell, Quesada, Palmiotti and Calafiore
$2.50 U.S./$3.30 Canadian

Incredible Premiere Issue! Ninjak finds himself trapped in the middle of a bloody war between the Weaponeer and the bad-ass Dr. Silk's WEBNET organization. Can Ninjak foresee every contingency to survive this deadly gambit? This issue also features a full wraparound chromium cover (it is **X-O MANOWAR #0**) by series artists Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti. This is a scorching hot book you can't afford to miss!

X-O #25

By Gerrolden, Kenworthy, Ryder and Covelle
$2.50 U.S./$3.30 Canadian

The U.S. Government makes another try for the X-O armor, pitting their newest weapons - the ARMORINES - against X-O Manowar. Inserted in the center of this special issue is the 16-page **ARMORINES #0** by Jorge Gonzalez and Jim Calafiore, explaining the origin of VALIANT's newest team.

HARBINGER #26

By Fosgreen, Chen, Wendel and Beland
$2.50 U.S./$3.15 Canadian

In the aftermath of last issue's stunning conclusion, a new breed of Harbingers is born from the ashes of the old. Can this new group of young heroes overcome their differences and learn to survive their first real test? Beginning a new chapter in VALIANT history, this is a great place for new readers to jump on board and experience VALIANT.

ETERNAL WARRIOR #19

By VanHook, Nolsted, Drake and Sadik
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

Guest Starring - Doctor Mirage
Gil is on the trail of another of the cursed coins when he crosses paths with someone else on the case - Doctor Mirage!

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER #33

By Ostrander, Calafiore and Mayo
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

Guest Starring - Timewalker
Accidentally jumping into the year 4002, Iron meets Magnus. They are pursued by the Molens, who want the secrets of time travel.

TIMEWALKER #6

By Parham, St. Pierre, Nolsted, Bolinger and Cavallaro
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

"THE HORROR BELOW" - Part 1 of 3
Geoff, Uesawa, Stronghold and Lt. Morgan must search the subway tunnels under New York City for an undead killer. This story continues in next month's **SECRET WEAPONS #7** and concludes in January's **X-O MANOWAR #27**.

ALSO THIS MONTH:

ARCHER ARMSTRONG #19

By Barnes, Vosburg and CJ
$2.50 U.S./$3.15 Canadian

BLOODSHOT #13

By VanHook, Perlin, Dixon and Jado
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

HARD CORPS #15

By Michelinie, Guichet and Ramos
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

X-O FUTURE FORCE #18

By Bedard, Spark and Mayo
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

MIRAGE #4

By Layton, Cheng, Branch and Fontenot
$2.50 U.S./$3.15 Canadian

SHADOW #22

By Hall, Dixon and Cavallaro
$2.50 U.S./$3.15 Canadian

SOLAR MAN OF THE ATOM #30

By VanHook, Grau, Palmiotti and Puccieri
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

TUROK #8

By Truman, Olamzman and Dunn
$2.50 U.S./$3.15 Canadian

COURTESY OF:

Next Issue:
VALIANT TOUCH focuses on **BLOODSHOT #0**, talking with writer/artist Kevin VanHook about the origin of one of VALIANT's most popular characters. There's also info on ***MAGNUS/NEXUS***, the big VALIANT/Dark Horse team-up, plus our regular features.
See you in 30 days...